

IN THE TITLE:

Please amend the title of the invention as follows:

RECORDING MEDIUM REPRODUCTION APPARATUS HAVING REPRODUCTION
RESTRICTION INFORMATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

[0004] The conventional DVD reproduction apparatus is arranged in the following manner. That is, the apparatus reads the player region code [[form]] from the system parameter storage memory before reproducing the recorded data from a DVD. On the other hand, the apparatus reads a region code from the DVD, then compares the player region code with the region code thus read and determines whether the reproduction of the recorded data is to be allowed or not based on the comparison result. When it is determined that the reproduction of the recorded data is not allowed, that is, when it is determined that an improper DVD which reproduction is restricted in this DVD reproduction apparatus (hereinafter merely called as "an improper DVD") is set, the reproduction of the recorded data is stopped. At the time of stopping the reproduction, the conventional DVD reproduction apparatus is arranged to display "error indication" on an image display apparatus such as a TV receiver etc. (hereinafter called as "a TV receiver" as the representative of the image display apparatuses) coupled to the DVD reproduction apparatus.

A3 [0005] Of course, the conventional DVD reproduction apparatus starts the reproduction of a DVD when a proper DVD which reproduction is not restricted in this DVD reproduction apparatus (hereinafter merely called as "a proper DVD") is set.

A4 [0010] In the case where a region No. display mark is not described on a DVD even if the region No. display mark is described on the package of the DVD, a user also ~~can not~~ cannot know what is the region code of the improper DVD when the user loses the package.

[0011] Further, even if a package is not lost, when a region No. display mark is described on the package of a DVD but not described on the DVD and a proper DVD is not housed within the package, a user also ~~can not~~ cannot know what is the region code of the improper DVD. This is because the region code of the DVD does not correspond to the player region code of a DVD reproduction apparatus used for reproduction after all even if the region No. display mark of the package corresponds to the player region code.

[0012] Further, in the case where a proper DVD is not housed within the package and a region No. display mark is described on each of a DVD and the package thereof, the region No. display mark on the DVD may be correct if the region No. display mark of the DVD does not correspond to the player region code of a DVD reproduction apparatus used for reproduction. However, in view of such a circumstance that the region No. display mark of the package does not correspond to the region No. display mark of the DVD housed within the package, it is doubtful whether the

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4 region No. display mark of the DVD is correct. In other words, a user also ~~can not convince~~
~~cannot be convinced~~ what is the region code of the improper DVD.

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[0016] [Means for Solving the Problems]

In order to solve the aforesaid problems, the recording medium reproduction apparatus according to the invention is an apparatus for reproducing a recording medium in which recorded data and recording medium side reproduction restriction information for restricting reproduction of the recorded data is recorded, and the recording medium reproduction apparatus includes:

a recording means in which apparatus side reproduction restriction information related to recording medium side reproduction restriction information is recorded;

an information reading means which reads the apparatus side reproduction restriction information recorded in the recording means and also reads the recording medium side reproduction restriction information from the recording medium before reproducing the recorded data from the recording medium;

a comparing means which compares the apparatus side reproduction restriction information with the recording medium side reproduction restriction information each read from the information reading means;

a determination means which determines whether reproduction of the recorded data is to be allowed or not based on the comparison result of the comparing means[:]; and

a control means which stops reproduction of the recorded data and outputs and displays the recording medium side reproduction restriction information when the determination means

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con determines that the reproduction of the recorded data is not allowed.

AP [0025] The display unit 300 is a display part such as an LCD etc. which displays an operation state of the DVD reproduction apparatus 10, information relating to a selected image, error information, etc.

[0026] The control unit 400 is a microcomputer or an ASIC etc. having a CPU, a memory etc. The player region code, etc. are recorded in the memory in advance.

AP [0029] The recording medium side reproduction restriction information is a region code of a DVD (hereinafter abbreviated to "DC") and the player region code is hereinafter abbreviated to "PC."

AP [0037] The code outputted and displayed together with the error indication may not be limited to the aforesaid region code, and the code called as a parental level, for example, may be outputted and displayed together with the error indication. In this respect, the parental level is the code for preventing a DVD containing an adult image etc. from being reproduced without canceling the protection. This code of the parental level can be cancelled by a user unlike the region code.

[0038] (2) The order of the aforesaid steps S10 and S20 may be reversed. That is, the region code may be read prior to the reading of the player region code.

AG [0041] [Effects of the Invention]

As described above, the recording medium reproduction apparatus according to the invention is an apparatus for reproducing a recording medium in which recorded data and recording medium side reproduction restriction information for restricting the reproduction of the recorded data is recorded, and the recording medium reproduction apparatus is arranged to include the recording means in which the apparatus side reproduction restriction information related to the recording medium side reproduction restriction information is recorded; the information reading means which reads the apparatus side reproduction restriction information recorded in the recording means and also reads the recording medium side reproduction restriction information from the recording medium before reproducing the recorded data from the recording medium; the comparing means which compares the apparatus side reproduction restriction information with the recording medium side reproduction restriction information each read from the information reading means; the determination means which determines whether the reproduction of the recorded data is to be allowed or not based on the comparison result of the comparing means[[:]]; and the control means which stops the reproduction of the recorded data and outputs and displays the recording medium side reproduction restriction information when the determination means determines that the reproduction of the recorded data is not allowed.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

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In an apparatus for reproducing a DVD 800 in which recorded data and a region code (DC) for restricting the reproduction of the recorded data is recorded, the apparatus is arranged to include a recording means in which a player region code (PC) related to the DC is recorded; an information reading means which reads the PC recorded in the recording means and also reads the DC from the DVD 800 before reproducing the recorded data from the DVD 800; a comparing means which compares the PC with the DC each read from the information reading means; a determination means which determines whether the reproduction of the recorded data is to be allowed or not based on the comparison result of the comparing means[[:]]; and a control means which stops the reproduction of the recorded data and outputs and displays the DC when the determination means determines that the reproduction of the recorded data is not allowed. The recording means is the memory of the control unit 400. The information reading means is formed by the optical pickup of the reproduction unit 100 and the CPU of the control unit 400. The comparing means and the determination means are formed by the control unit 400. The control means is formed by the control unit 400 and the OSD generation unit 200.